

769th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy)



September 27, 2002 — Issue 4

Soldiers of the 769th Engineer Battalion:

Our projects are continuing on track and the fine work that each of you are putting in is paying off in big dividends to everyone on post. I have received many compliments for tasks completed by this battalion and am proud of what my soldiers have been able to achieve. You should be proud of yourselves as I and CSM Serio are.

Engineers are everywhere in Viper City. The crushed rock we are bringing in is helping to keep the dust from blowing around and the soldiers there are extremely thankful. Roadways are being developed and improved throughout the area in and around Viper.

More Brown and Root personnel have arrived over the past couple of weeks with more to come. They have hit the ground running and have their work cut out for them. They have specific tasks and missions to accomplish as does the 769th. I encourage everyone to welcome them to the base and show them all the courtesies that Louisiana soldiers are known for.

Last Sunday the 115th Engineers hosted another cook out for us and other engineer units on the post. I hope everyone had an opportunity to attend and enjoyed their hospitality. It is the teamwork and camaraderie that helps



LTC Boutte, James E.
Battalion Commander

unite soldiers from other units. I'm sure you are all looking forward to another gathering. But until then, keep up the good work and positive attitudes.

TiGators continue to lead the way. Make me proud.

Got Water?

Water is a valuable commodity in Bagram. Those who have tried taking a shower at different times during the day know what I'm talking about. SGT Victor Duncan is seen here operating the SEE enabling them to emplace the water line. Alpha Company has been working diligently ensuring there will no longer be a water shortage. 769th will soon be connected directly to the water purification system and will no longer rely in the water distributor for it's supply of water. Even with this new asset, we must continue to be frugal in our water usage and not waste this precious commodity.



SGT Victor Duncan — A Co.

SOLDIER PROFILE

Each week, this newsletter would like to recognize an exceptional soldier or group of soldiers for his or her commitment and positive work ethic. Please send recommendations to 1LT Townley and the reasons why you think a particular soldier(s) should be recognized.

This week, the newsletter crew chose CPL Robbie Martin from Company A. CPL Martin joined Company A shortly before this deployment to Afghanistan. On active duty he was involved in small arms repair, but now serves as carpenter. However, his duty during this deployment is Company commander's driver. Since there is not much driving to do around Bagram, he does everything from administrative duties to carpentry work.



CPL Martin — A Co.

Thank you for doing such a wonderful job.

A few words from CSM Serio...

Once again I have been reminded of the hard work being performed by the 769th Engineers. Just recently I toured Viper City and saw first hand the work our dump truck and equipment platoon soldiers have been putting in.

I have seen significant progress and much work left to be done. We have a short time frame to complete these projects and I am confident that the scope will be reached within the allotted time frame. It will take continued commitment and dedication, both of which I know you are capable of and will continue



to achieve good things with positive motivation. I expect more of the same work ethics to continue.

Time continues to tick on and the days are flying by, or so it seems. Use your spare time wisely. Catch up on some reading, write letters home or do learn a new skill from your fellow soldiers. NCOs, encourage your troops to cross train within their skill areas. This will improve the standards and provide you with more assets when it comes to mission taskings.

Being safety conscious is still a number one priority. Keep close tabs on what your soldiers do and reward good accomplishments. A thank you and a pat on the back goes a long way.

Chaplain's Corner

How are you doing? Every once in a while, I like to take my portion of the newsletter and remind you of the purpose of the Chaplains' Corps.

We're ordained by our churches, and approved by the Army, for the purpose of ensuring that you have freedom of religion and a confidential person to go to for pastoral counseling. As we now know, the Army can send us anywhere at any time. This disruption naturally cre-

ates stress on both the soldier and his or her family. When that happens, you need to come by and see me.

In a couple of days, the Camp Cajun Chapel will be open for business. Please feel free to stop by anytime--day or night-- if you need to talk about a problem or just need a listening ear. Let's get through this thing together, one day at a time.

Chaplain (MAJ) Stephen A. Sanders



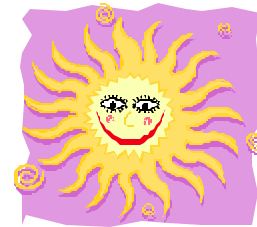
Camp Cajun Weather Forecast

Friday: 85/50 Sunny/Dusty

Saturday: 85/50 Sunny/Dusty

Sunday: 85/50 Sunny/Dusty

Monday: 85/50 Sunny/Dusty



Gospel Explosion

The long awaited Gospel Explosion, held at the American Hospital on 20 September was a huge success. The people that attended said it was a wonderful spiritual revival. The choir is conducted by SSG Bronson of HSC. Following the festivities a barbeque was held for the participants.

SGT Stewart Receives a Coin

SGT Drexel Stewart is a mechanic by MOS and a carpenter by trade. Building everything from desks to roofs and anything in between, his expertise have been utilized since the 769th has been activated. SGT Stewart is definitely an asset to HSC as well as the 769th EN BN.



Just like when Kennedy was assassinated, or the challenger blew up, everyone remembers what they were doing on 9-11. What were you doing?

“I was at work in a small cubicle and someone came in and said the WTC had been hit. I went to our conference room and saw the second plane hit the tower. The only thought that came to my mind is oh my God, we’re going to war.” SFC Pecoraro

“I was in a readiness NCO meeting, then someone came in and said the WTC had been hit. After that we watched the news for a few hours and then began moving trucks to form a blockade around the armory.” SSG Rivere

“I was in our clinic workroom and turned on the television, I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. It didn’t seem real. 9-11 means a lot of things to a lot of different people, some were affected as soon as the incident occurred; however, I don’t think it hit home for me until I got to Bagram. I’m sitting in the middle of this desolate place looking at innocent children, begging for water and wondering how someone could let this happen, and then I realize that us being here is ensuring that that terrible incident will never recur.” 1LT Townley



Question of the Week

What’s the one thing you’ll remember about Afghanistan?

*Submit answers to
1LT Townley*

Ronco Mine Dogs

This deployment has afforded 769th EN BN many different unique opportunities. One of those opportunities is working with the Ronco Mine Dogs. These dogs are hand selected from Europe and then receive obedience training in Holland and later brought to Texas, where they are trained to detect different paraphernalia such as drugs, mines, and explosives. The dogs located in Bagram are being used to proof areas that are suspected of being unclear. Each dog has its own individual trainer which speaks one of several different languages from many different countries; however the dogs themselves receive all of their commands in Dutch. The dogs are able to detect ordinance 1-8 cm under the ground and have proven to be very helpful in these operations.



Engineer Barbeque

The Engineer Barbeque was held this past Sunday at the 115th Engineer Base Camp. There were games as well as lots of food. The event was held for Engineers to have a chance to socialize with other fellow Engineers. It was also held as a send off for the Polish Sappers that will be leaving Bagram Airbase next week.

A special thanks to all those that volunteered to cook.
SSG Gipson, SGT Mays, SPC Faul, SPC Manuel, SPC Blunt.



Brown & Root

Maybe you have noticed a few more people around Camp Cajun. A few weeks ago we welcomed EOD. Soon a number of Brown & Root employees will be temporarily housed at Camp Cajun. Their permanent tents will be set up in Viper City and are presently being constructed by local Afghan contractors. If you happen to run into any of these people take the time to say hello and give them a nice southern welcome to Camp Cajun.

“Poem of the Week”

IF I KNEW

(Dedicated to the victims of 9-11)

If I knew it would be the last time
That I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time
that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word,
so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time,
I could spare an extra minute
to stop and say "I love you,"
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.

If I knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow
to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance
to make everything just right.

There will always be another day
to say "I love you,"

And certainly there's another chance
to say our "Anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong,
and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
and I hope we never forget.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
you'll surely regret the day,

That you didn't take that extra time
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss
and you were too busy to grant someone,
what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today,
and whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
and that you'll always hold them dear

Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's
okay."

And if tomorrow never comes,
you'll have no regrets about today.

-Unknown

Cajun Pics



2LT Bendich chowing down



SPC Hasselbeck and SGT Morris



Arial view of Camp Cajun



1LT Townley with Ronco Mine Dog Team



MSG Williams



SGT Jackson and SFC Grenade



SPC Martin



2LT Sayer

Local Afghan Contractors

For the past few weeks the TOC has been filled with local Afghans. They are in the process of remodeling all of the rooms in the TOC. Locals are being used in this project as well as a lot of other projects around Bagram Airfield.

Local contracting has provided improved living conditions for troops while boosting the local economy. This process should be complete shortly, leaving a much more comfortable, air conditioned work environment.



Alpha At Viper

Alpha Company has been busy with different Vertical and Horizontal projects around Bagram Airfield. Presently they are emplacing Hescos along the back side of Viper City and moving fill in order to add more tents for incoming soldiers.

Alpha Company is also cross training combat engineer soldiers from the 82nd on horizontal construction equipment.

The Quarry Got Blown

Did you hear a big boom on September 12? It was an explosion to be heard by all and left everyone near the quarry a little dusty.

The Polish Engineers enlarged the quarry and loosened the walls for continued horizontal construction. Approximately 900 pounds of C4 was placed in various locations along the perimeter to ensure maximum results.

The quarry is located near the North end of the Airfield and is used by the 20 ton dump drivers in HSC's equipment platoon to provide fill for different horizontal projects that are being done around the Airbase.



Quote of the week

Some people only dream of success, while others wake up everyday and work hard at it.

SPC Matthew Spillers

If you have anything you would like published in the newsletter please submit to 1LT Townley.

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